

Message Text

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FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, PL
SUBJECT: RFE BROADCASTING; EMPHASIS ON MICHAEL KALECKI

1. AMBASSADOR DAVIES AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE RECENTLY READ GEORGE R. FEIWEL'S EXCELLENT BOOK, "THE INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL OF MICHAL KALECKI: A STUDY IN ECONOMIC THEORY AND POLICY" (UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE PRESS, KNOXVILLE, 1975). THE BOOK'S FOREWORD WAS WRITTEN BY PROFESSOR LAWRENCE R. KLEIN, WHO WRITES THAT KALECKI "WAS AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC THINKER OF OUR GENERATION", AND THAT MUCH OF WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE POLAND OF POST-1956 IS RELEVANT TO TODAY'S SITUATION. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT BRING FEIWEL'S BOOK TO THE ATTENTION OF BIB, WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT RFE'S POLISH SERVICE DRAW ON IT AND KALECKI'S WRITINGS IN GENERAL IN DISCUSSING RECENT CHANGES IN POLISH ECONOMIC POLICY.

2. DEALING CHRONOLOGICALLY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF KALECKI'S THOUGHT, FEIWEL DOCUMENTS HIS "COMPLETE ANTICIPATION OF KEYNES' 'GENERAL THEORY'" AS KLEIN PUTS IT. WHAT IS ESPECIALLY RELEVANT IS FEIWEL'S DESCRIPTION OF KALECKI'S ELABORATION OF THE THEORY OF GROWTH UNDER SOCIALISM, AS EXEMPLIFIED PARTICULARLY IN THE FIFTEEN-YEAR (1960-75) PERSPECTIVE PLAN
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POST-OCTOBER 1956, POLAND, DRAFTED DURING KALECKI'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PERSPECTIVE PLAN. FEIWEL DRAWS CONSEQUENCES IN THE FINAL THREE CHAPTERS FROM KALECKI'S EFFORT TO CONSTRUCT A PLAN WHICH PUTS CONSUMPTION AND A RISE IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING FIRST. THERE ARE RECOMMENDATIONS

AND JUDGMENTS BY KALECKI IN THESE CHAPTERS DIRECTLY RELEVANT
TO THE CURRENT PROBLEMS OF THE POLISH REGIME AND ITS PLANNERS.

3. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE RFE'S POLISH SERVICE COULD MAKE EFFECTIVE
USE OF FEIWEL'S WORK, NOT ONLY TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON KALECKI
(WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN LARGELY IGNORED IN POLAND AS WELL AS IN
THE WEST), BUTNL SO TO ENCOURAGE THE GIEREK REGIME TO
CONTINUE ON THE PATH WHICH IT APPARENTLY HAS AGAIN CHOSEN --
INCREASED CONSUMERISM. IN THIS CONNECTION, REFE MIGHT
INTERVIEW PROFESSOR KLEIN AND DISCUSS WITH HIM KALECKI'S
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ECONOMIC THEORY AND HS PRESCRIPTIONS FOR
POLISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. COMPARISONS COULD BE DRAWN
BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT, USING PRAISE WHEN
WARRANTED, TO ENCOURAGE THE GIEREK LEADEJBHIP FURTHER
ALONG THE PRESENT ECONOMIC COURSE. END COMMENT.
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